

ALL I WANNA
DO IS CATCH
THE BASTARD
WHO DID THIS
TO FLAME WITH
MY OWN TWO
HANDS!

BECAUSE
RIGHT
NOW,



RIGHT
HERE...
RIGHT
HERE IS
WHERE
SOMEONE
TRIED TO
KILL ME.

HOLY
CRAP

THIS IS
IT THIS
IS FOR
SURE
THE DAY
IT ALL
WENT
DOWN

NOVEMBER
2, 2021



OH, FLAME
IT'S SO
NICE TO
SEE YOU
AGAIN,
EVEN
JUST
LIKE
THIS

YOU
PUT
DOWN
A TR-
CAST, RIGHT?

YES,
I'LL
FLIN
OLD
PROSELY
ONE



C'MON,
MADAME!
YOU GOT
THIS!

FLAME
AND I
HAVE
BOTH
GOT
OUR
TICKETS.

THAT
DICKS
I WAS
SO
EXCITED
TOO.

HIDE
SAID
MINE
LOST.



AND
THERE
THEY
ALL GO,
BURSTING
OUT OF
THE
STARTING
GATES!

I OWE
TO GOD
I'LL GET
THE GUY
AND HAVE
MY RE-
VENGE
FOR YOU

WING



SOMETHING
WILL CORN'NT
ADD UP I STILL
HAD MY BELLET
ON ME AFTER
THAT AND ALL
I OTHERWISE
HAD ON ME
THIS DAY WAS
MY LOOSE
TICKET.



FEARS SAID
THAT WHEN
THE DANCE
ENDED, WE
DIDNT WIN
ANYTHING AND
THEN SOME GUY
IN HAMBURGERS
STABBED ME
AND ATTACKED
ME OUT BACK.

HOW
FROM
WHAT
I RE-
CALL.



WAIT,
WHAT?

HONDDO
S, S,
AND S.

MULTI-
PLY
BY 204.



AND IT
LOOKS
LIKE
SOMEONE
IS COMING
HOME RICH
TONIGHT!

HERE
COME THE
RESULTS!
HONDDO,
TAKES FIRST,
SECOND
GOES TO
AND CUTS,
AND THERE IS
GOOD
GOSH!



OH
MY
GOD.

I
WON.



I WON 230
MILLION
YEN.

THAT
MAKES...

230...

MILLION
YEN.









AT LONG
LAST,
WE CAN
FINALLY LIVE
TOGETHER!
JUST LIKE
WE ALWAYS
SHOULD HAVE!
DOESN'T
THAT MAKE
YOU HAPPY?

Y,
YEAH!
OF
COURSE!

THEY'RE
THE
ONES
BEHIND
IT ALL....

IT WAS
HIDEYUKI
AND
FUMIE.

SO IT
WASN'T
SOME
RANDOM
GUY.



I'M, UH, NOT SURE I REALLY GET IT. WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOUR HUSBAND TO DO ALL THIS TO YOU?

...



THEY'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER SINCE WE WERE IN COLLEGE WHEN THEY PLAYED TENNIS TOGETHER AND THEY STILL PARTNERED UP FOR TOURNAMENTS.

THERE'S ONLY ONE REAL ANSWER TO THAT. HE AND FUMIE MUST HAVE BEEN HAVING AN AFFAIR BEHIND MY BACK.



THEY WERE PLANNING TO OFF ME AND THEN TAKE THE 300 MILLION YEN TO START A NEW LIFE.

YOU TWO HEARD WHAT HE SAID. 'AT LONG LAST, WE CAN FINALLY LIVE TOGETHER.'

AND THEN WHEN I CAME TO, HE HAD THE NERVE TO ACT LIKE HE HAD NO IDEA WHAT HAD HAPPENED AND JUST WENT BACK TO BEING MY HUSBAND AS USUAL. HE'S THE WORST!



WHEN IT SEEMS AS IF THINGS IS ALWAYS NOTHING BUT TROUBLE.

TWO CASES DO NOT A PRECEDENT MAKE, CHIEF.



YOU
DON'T
THINK I
KNOW
THAT!?

YOU CAN'T
JUST WALTZ
UP TO THEM
LIKE THAT!
THESE GUYS
ALMOST
KILLED YOU
LAST TIME!



I'VE GOT
NO OTHER
CHOICE
I'M GONNA
GO CON-
FRONT
THEM
MYSELF



THEY
SHOULD
HAVE JUST
FINISHED
THE JOB
AND LEFT
ME OUT
TO DIE!

WHY THE
HELL DID
THEY HAVE
TO DO
THIS?

I
JUST
THOUGHT
WE WERE
ALL SO
CLOSE,
YOU
KNOW

I
JUST
...



BUT MARK
MY WORDS,
THEY'LL
REGRET IT
ALL ONCE I'M
THROUGH
WITH THEM!

THE THREE
OF US HAD
ALL BEEN
CLOSE
FRIENDS
SINCE OUR
COLLEGE
DAYS.



travel-3
掛けがえ
THE INTERSECTION



BEFORE
I KNEW
IT.



HIDEYUKI
AND I
GOT
MARRIED.

THEN
HIDEYUKI
ENTERED
THE POLICE
ROOM AFTER
THAT HE AND
FUMIE WERE
PARTNERED
IN A TRAINING
CLUB AND I
HAD HER
INTRODUCE
ME TO HER.



FUMIE
AND I
FIRST
MET IN
A CLASS
WE WERE
BOTH
TAKING.



IT DIDN'T
TAKE LONG
FOR ALL
OF US TO
BECOME
TECH.
WHERE ONE
OF US
WENT, THE
REST OF
US ALWAYS
FOLLOWED.

BECAUSE YOU
CAN'T KNOW
HOW LIFE'S
GONNA TURN
OUT UNTIL
YOU'RE STUCK
FACING IT AND
LEFT TO PICK
UP THE PIECES.



THERE
ALWAYS
IS

BUT
THERE'S
ALSO
TO IT



HEY,
FUMIE?
IT'S ME.



WE HAVE
TO DO
IT NO
TURNING
BACK

YEAH,
THERE'S
NO WAY
AROUND
IT THIS
TIME.



I GUESS
SHE KNOWS
EVERYTHING
AND WANTS
TO COME
MEET WITH
US.

YEAH,
SHE
LEFT A
VOICE-
MAIL
WITH ME,
TOO.



CHANCES
ARE PRETTY
SLIM I'LL
COME OUT
OF THIS
IN ONE
PIECE, BUT
I DON'T
KNOW
NOW

WE ALL
AGREED
TO MEET
UP AT
FUMIE'S
PLACE.



DO YOU
KNOW IF
I'LL
ALONE,
TOO?

COME
HELL, OF
HIGH
WATER,
I'LL SEE
TO IT
THEY-



IT'S
NOW
OR
NEVER!



OH, I'M
JUST HERE
TO FOLLOW
UP ON A
CUSTOMER
WE HAD
BOOKED
TODAY

SURELY
TWO-ON-
TWO IS
BETTER
THAN
TWO-ON-
ONE, NO?



I MEAN,
SURE, I'M A BIT
NEURONIC
AND ALL, BUT
STILL!

YOU
DON'T HAVE
TO DO THIS
FOR ME!
REALLY?



CHEEF?

DON'T
YOU
HAVE
OTHER
THINGS
YOU
SHOULD
BE
DOING?

WHY
ARE
YOU
HERE?



LOOK
AT
THE
PLACE

IS THAT
THE SORT
OF PLACE
THAT PEOPLE
WITH A FEW
HUNDRED
MILLION
YEN TO
SPARE STAY?



OH NO,
WE'LL BE
FINE! I'VE
GOT US
COVERED
FOR JUST
ABOUT
ANYTHING!



HAVING
SAID THAT,
I THINK
SOMETHING
IS STILL A
BIT OFF
ABOUT ALL
OF THIS.

AND
HOW
DO YOU
FEEL?



DEEP DOWN, I
KEEP
HOPEING
THAT THIS
IS ALL
SOMEHOW
A BIG MIS-
UNDER-
STANDING.

WHAT WE
HAD WAS
SOMETHING
SPECIAL
AND IT STILL
MEANS A
LOT TO
ME.

I'M
TRYING
SO HARD
TO SEE
WHERE
THEY'RE
COMING
FROM.
IN THIS
MESS.

I THINK
I'M STILL
A BIT
TOO SOFT
AFTER
ALL.

YOU
KNOW
I THINK



NOTHING'S
GOING MY
WAY. I DON'T
EVEN HAVE
ANY OF
THOSE KIDS
I'VE WANTED.

I'M JUST
ACTING
SELFISH
AGAIN.
AREN'T I?

HA-
HA.



IT'S
OPEN.



WELL, HEE,
I HOPE
YOU'RE
ALL READY FOR
ONE LAST
FIGHT, BECAUSE
GUY HAVE I GOT
A BELL OF A
ONE TO PICK
WITH YOU
TONIGHT.









IS THIS
FOR REAL?

YOU TWO WANTED

TO APO-
LO-
GIZE?



I KNOW
THAT YOU
WOULD
DO IT, BUT

WE JUST
WANTED
TO KNOW
YOU OUT



WHAT
DID
YOU DO
WITH THE
MONEY?



HIDE AND I
HAD BEEN
HELPING
EACH OTHER
AND WE RAN
INTO SOME
MONEY
TROUBLE

WHEN
YOU WON
AT THAT
RACE, I
JUST LOST
IT AND DID
SOMETHING
HORRIBLE!



BUT YOU
HAVE TO
UNDERSTAND
WE'VE BEEN
DESPERATE
FOR THE
ENTIRE
TIME

EVERY DAY
OF OUR
LIVES NOW,
IT'S ALL
WE CAN
THINK
ABOUT

I KNOW
THIS WON'T
MAKE
UP FOR
WHAT WE
DID





GETTING
HIS TREATMENT
MEANT HAVING
SURGERY OVER
IN AMERICA AND
THEN GETTING
FOLLOW-UP
TREATMENTS
BACK HERE.
THEY COST US
340 MILLION
YEN IN ALL.

!!



HE'S GOT
A CONGENI-
TAL DISEASE
THAT ALMOST
KILLED HIM
SIX MONTHS
BACK.

HE'S
AL-
READY
A YEAR
OLD.



WE
COULDN'T
JUST GIVE
UP ON THIS
CHILD WE
HAVE.

I'M
SORRY,
SUZUKA.

ALL OF
YOUR
MONEY
WENT
TOWARDS
THOSE
THINGS.



THE MORE
I LEARN
THE TRUTH.

THE MORE
I SHOULD
BE FEELING
HELPLESS.
I CAN'T
JUST TURN
BACK AND
PRETEND IT
NEVER
HAPPENED
NOW.



IT'S
SO
SOO.

THE
LIGHT
NOW
I SHOULD
BE FEEL-
ING.



...



IT WAS
PROBABLY
KEEPING
ME FROM HOW
I TREATED
YOU TWO.

I GET
I KNOW
WHY WE
NEVER
HAD KIDS,
HIDE.



I KNEW ALL
ALONG THAT
YOU AND
FUMIE WERE
MADE FOR
EACH OTHER
MUCH MORE
THAN I EVER
WAS WITH
YOU.



BUT
INSTEAD,
SOMEHOW
I FEEL
RELIEVED.

SEEING
ALL THIS
AND
HEARING
WHAT'S
BEEN
GOING
ON... I
FINALLY
UNDER-
YOU TWO.



HYAH!





TAKE
ALL
THE
TIME
YOU
NEED.

I'LL
BE
HERE
WAITING
FOR
YOU

I WAS BAO AT
MY JOB AND
DIDN'T DO MY
PART TO TAKE
CARE OF THE
HOUSE OR MY
MARRIAGE. ALL
I EVER DID WAS
BURN OTHER
PEOPLE, OVER
AND OVER
AGAIN.

FOR ONE,
I WAS A
HELL OF A
BAR-B-QUE,
AND WITH
A SASSY
STREAK,
TO BOOT.

THE
OLD
ME
WAS A
BUNCH
OF
SQUAT
PER-
SON.

...





THE END OF THE ROAD

AND SO IT'S FINALLY COME TO PASS AT LONG LAST AFTER NEARLY TWO YEARS OF WAITING THAT ENGLISH READERS OF IN OUR WAKE NOW HAVE A COMPLETELY NEW CHAPTER TO FEAST UPON. FOR ME PERSONALLY, IT'S A SLIGHTLY BITTERSWEET MOMENT. ON THE ONE HAND, IT'S NICE TO FINALLY GIVE THE READERS WHAT THEY WANT IN THE FORM OF NEW CONTENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, I FEEL LIKE THAT NEW CONTENT ACTUALLY CONSISTS OF SOME OF THIS SERIES' WEAKEST MATERIAL. THAT ISN'T TO SAY IT'S BAD. THE BASIC STORY PREMISE FOR THIS CHAPTER AND THE ACCOMPANYING RESOLUTION AND CHARACTER DEVELOPMENTS ARE ALL SOLIDLY DONE AND, NATURALLY, THE ARTWORK IS AS GREAT AS EVER. BUT THERE ARE STILL SOME WEIRD ISSUES THAT I AS A FELLOW READER CAN'T WORK OUT NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I CHECK THE JAPANESE SOURCE MATERIAL. CHIEF AMONG THEM IS HOW FUMIE MANAGED TO HAVE HER KID WITHOUT WITHOUT SUZUKA SOMEHOW NOTICING SHE WAS PREGNANT THE ENTIRE TIME! JAPANESE WOMEN TEND TO BE A PRETTY LANKY LOT, BUT IT'S STILL PRETTY IMPLAUSIBLE FOR FUMIE TO BE ABLE TO HIDE IT THE WHOLE TIME, ESPECIALLY SINCE WHEN YOU DO THE MATH, SHE WOULD HAVE HAD THE KID IN MAY. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'VE EVER LIVED IN JAPAN, BUT THAT'S WHEN THE WEATHER STARTS TAKING A TURN FOR THE HOT AND HUMID! NOT AN OPPORTUNE TIME TO BE HIDING A PREGNANT STOMACH WITH LAYERS UPON LAYERS OF SWEATERS! I ALSO FOR THE LIFE OF ME CAN'T WORK OUT THE MATH FOR SUZUKA'S PAYOUT. THE ORIGINAL JAPANESE USES HORSE-RACING BETTING TERMINOLOGY THAT I BELIEVE DOESN'T EXIST IN OTHER LANGUAGES AND I SIMPLY COULDN'T MAKE THE ASSOCIATED MATH EVER LINE UP. THAT ONE MAY BE ON ME, BUT I'M NOT READY TO TAKE THE FALL FOR THAT ONE EITHER.

STILL, AS IS THE CASE WITH THE REST OF THE SERIES, THIS WAS A FUN AND INTERESTING CHAPTER TO TRANSLATE. TRANSLATION WORK TENDS TO INHERENTLY ENTAIL RESEARCH TO SOME DEGREE AND, INDEED, FOR THIS CHAPTER, I WAS MADE TO DO A DECENT AMOUNT OF THAT REGARDING JAPANESE HORSE RACING. BETTING ON THE THINGS IS A HUGE PASTIME OVER THERE, SOMETHING TO WHICH THE SCORES OF CHEAP USED HORSE RACING GAMES CAN ATTEST TO, BUT IT'S NEVER EXACTLY BEEN SOMETHING I'D GONE OUT OF MY WAY TO REALLY SET TO KNOW PRIOR TO WORKING ON THIS CHAPTER OF IN OUR WAKE. LIKE I MENTIONED BEFORE, SOME OF THE TERMINOLOGY REMAINS EXCLUSIVE TO HORSE RACING IN JAPAN, SO THERE WERE SOME INSTANCES WHERE I HAD TO BE A BIT OBLIQUE, BUT OTHERWISE I FEEL LIKE I DID AN ALL RIGHT JOB KEEPING THINGS CONSISTENT WITH HOW HORSE RACING IS DISCUSSED IN ENGLISH. ONLY TIME WILL TELL I SUPPOSE.

ANYWAY, CREDITS, RIGHT? AS ALWAYS, I BASICALLY DID EVERYTHING EXCEPT THE RAW SCANNING, WHO SHALL REMAIN ANONYMOUS. I'M STILL RECRUITING IMAGE EDITING HELPERS, SO IF YOU'VE GOT SKILLS, HIT ME UP!
-PEPSIMAN
[HTTP://TANPENSHUU.TUMBLR.COM](http://tanpenshuu.tumblr.com) [HTTP://TANPENSHUU.WORDPRESS.COM](http://tanpenshuu.wordpress.com)





SIGH...

IT ALL
BEGAN
ABOUT
SIX
MONTHS
AGO.

...



YOU
GUESS?

AT
LEAST,
I
GUESS
THAT'S
HOW I
WAS.



I HAD A
JOB AND I
WAS GOOD
ABOUT
TAKING
CARE OF
THE HOUSE
AND HIGH-
SCHOOL MY
HUSBAND

AND
I LIKE
TO
THINK I
WAS A
GOOD
WIFE.



I
TENDED
TO
LEAD A
PRETTY
CHILL
LIFE.

I MIGHT
HAVE HAD
A STAIN-
GLASS
STREAK, BUT
USUALLY
I WAS
PRETTY
LOW-KEY.



BUT
FLAME WAS
ALWAYS
THERE
FOR US,
STEPPING
IN AND
MAKING
SURE WE
NEVER GOT
OUT OF
HAND.

COME
ON,
SN&O
OUT OF
THIS!

SURE,
WE HAD
OUR
SHARE
OF
FIGHTS.

OH, SORRY, PLEASE! YOU KNOW I THINK I'M REALLY INTO HERESIDE. I WOULD TELL YOU WHAT I THINK, BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT WHAT HE'LL SAY YOU THINK I SHOULD STILL TALK THAT WAY?

I EVEN COMPOSED IN PUNISHMENT WHEN I REALIZED I LIKED HERESIDE.

OK?

WE'D ALL BEEN TOGETHER SINCE COLLEGE.

WE KEPT NOTHING FROM EACH OTHER. WE COULD DISCUSS ANYTHING.

WELL, PLEASE, I WISH I COULD KEEP A COOL HEAD TOO.

ALL RIGHT, WE'LL STOP.

I MEAN, YEAH, YOU TWO TEND TO ARGUE A LOT, BUT I'VE GOT A FEELING THAT YOU TWO'LL MAKE FOR A REALLY GREAT COUPLE. THINGS WILL ALWAYS BE LIVELY AT THE VERY LEAST.

YOU WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

I'LL MAKE YOU'LL BE FINE.

I THINK YOU MIGHT BE BUSYING THINGS A LITTLE.

YOU'RE ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT RIGHT?

WOOF HOW MANY KIDS DO YOU THINK WE'LL HAVE?

YOU'RE SO RIGHT! HOW COULD I EVER DOUBT MY-SELF?

SHE GAVE ME THE PUSH I NEEDED TO MOVE FORWARD IN HER OWN QUEST FOR LIFE SHE ALWAYS DID.



STILL,
WE'VE BEEN
ABLE TO
KEEP IT ALL
GOING LIKE
BEFORE.
HAPPY AS
EVER.

WE
STILL
DON'T
HAVE
ANY
IDEA.

THEN
JUST
LIKE I
THOUGHT
WE
WOULD,
WE GOT
HITCHED.



OR AT
LEAST
THAT'S
WHAT I
THOUGHT.



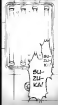
THE
HOSPITAL
WHERE ELSE
WOULD
YOU BE?

THAN
HERE?

WHERE
AM I?

YOU AND
PUMIE WERE
AT THE HOUSE
TODAY WHEN
SOME THING
JUMPED YOU
OUT BACK AND
DID A REAL
NUMBER ON
YOU! WE DIDN'T
KNOW IF YOU
WERE GOING
MAKE IT!

BUT IT ALL
JUST CAME
CRASHING
DOWN ON
ME ONE
DAY.



FROM WHAT I'VE BEEN
TOLD, SOMEBODY
APPARENTLY WHACKED ME
ON THE HEAD
WITH A BLUNT
OBJECT.

DON'T
YOU
RE-
MEM-
BER?

WHAT!?

LUCKILY,
SHE
MANAGED
TO FLEE
WITH JUST
SOME
CUTS AND
BRUISES.

HAW...
I KNOW I
WANTED
FUMIE TO
COME OUT
WITH ME AND
WE MADE IT
THREE TO
THE TRACKS,
BUT MY MIND
IS FUZZY
BEYOND
THAT.

WHAT'S
WORSE,
THE SHOCK
WAS BAD
ENOUGH
TO MAKE
ME FORGET
EVERYTHING
THAT LED UP
TO THAT
MOMENT
AND CAME
AFTER.

BUT SHE'S
PRETTY
BADLY
TRAUMATIZED
BY IT ALL.
SHE WON'T
TALK TO
ANYONE AT
ALL.

!!

X
YEAH.

OH,
THAT'S
RIGHT!
FUMIE!
IS SHE
ALL
RIGHT!?

I'M
GONNA
FIND
WHOEVER
DID THIS
TO US AND—

FORGIVE
ME,
FUMIE!

OH GOD
TO THINK
SHE GOT
CAUGHT IN
THIS MESS
AS SOON AS
SHE CAME
ALONG
WITH ME...



YOU DON'T
WIN
ANYTHING
FROM IT,
THOUGH



HUH? WHAT'S
THIS THING?

OH,
THAT'S
THE
BETTING
TICKET
WE FOUND
IN YOUR
POCKET



AND THEN TO
TOP IT ALL
OFF, MY
MAGGIE
HASN'T BEEN
IN THE BEST
OF SHAPE
LATELY

FWHE
STILL
DOESN'T
WANNA
SEE
ANYBODY

MY
INJURIES
HAVE TAKEN
A LONG
TIME TO
HEAL. I
LOST MY
JOB

YEA,
YOU
BUT IT
EVER
SINCE IT
ALL
WENT
DOWN,
I'VE BEEN
A BITTING
DUCK



I SUPPOSE
THAT MEANS
YOU CAME
HERE BECAUSE
YOU'D LIKE
TO SEE FOR
YOURSELF
WHAT TOOK
PLACE, THEN?



WELL...
IT'S STILL
BETTER
THAN
NOTHING.
IT'LL BE A
GOOD FIRST
STEP IF
NOTHING
ELSE...



YOU CAN'T
USE OUR
TIME TRAVEL
TECHNOLOGY
AS LEGAL
EVIDENCE. WE
JUST DON'T
HAVE THAT
POWER. WILL
THAT BE
OKAY?

I UNDER-
STAND,
BUT I
WOULD
WISH YOU
WOULD
EXPLAIN
THAT...